

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 SIL-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9376

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICAL USE BRUSSELS 7180

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, BR, BE

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION AGAINST BRAZIL EXPORT FAIR

REF: BRASILIA 8152

1. ESTIMATED 12,000 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN PROTEST DEMONSTRATION IN BRUSSELS NOVEMBER 10 AGAINST BRAZIL EXPORT COMMERCIAL FAIR, WHICH WAS HELD HERE NOVEMBER 7-15. DEMONSTRATION WAS PEACEFUL UNTIL ABOUT ONE THOUSAND MARCHERS TRIED TO GO TO CENTER OF CITY, WHICH IS OFF-LIMITS TO SUCH GROUPS. POLICE USED FORCE TO PREVENT DETOUR AND THREE DEMONSTRATORS WERE REPORTEDLY INJURED SERIOUSLY

2. PROTEST ORGANIZERS WERE SEPARHEADED BY LIBERAL MEMBERS OF SOCIAL CHRISTIANS (PARTICULARLY FLEMINGS), WITH ACTIVE HELP OF SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME 40 ORGANIZATIONS OF BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL TENDENCIES. LEADERS OF EUROPE-LATIN AMERICA COMMUTTEE (MAINLY MADE UP OF LIBERA CHRISTIANS, SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS) MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF ORGANIZERS. CHRISTIAN OPPOSITION TO BRAZILIAN REGIM WAS ALSO VOICED AT CONGRESS OF PARTY'S FLEMISH BRANCH IN LATE OCTOBER (SEE BRUSSELS A-289).

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3. MOST DEMONSTRATORS WERE BELGIAN BUT ACCORDING TO PRESS, DELEGATIONS ALSO CAME FROM FRANCE, GERMAN, ITALY AND NETHERLANDS. FAMILIAR BELGIAN FIGURES PARTICIPATING IN DEMONSTRATION INCLUDED CLAUDE DEJARDIN, SOCIALIST DEPUTY JEAN-LOUIS THYS, PRESIDENT OF YOUNG SOCIAL CHRISTIANS, AND MADAME NOELLE DINATN OF COMMUNIST PARTY.

4. DEMONSTRATORS DENOUNCED BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT AS MILITARY DICTATORSHIP WHICH EXPLOITS WORKERS. DEMONSTRATION WAS PRECEDED FURING SEVERAL WEEKS BY DEFACEMENT OF BRAZIL-EXPORT BILLBOARDS WITH ANTI-BRAZIL SLOGANS. DEMONSTRATIONS AND PRONOUNCEMENTS WHICH PROCEDED IT ALSO HAD ANTI-CHILE AND ANTI-US CAPITALIST TONE (ONE PLACARD READ "ITT-CIA HANDS OFF CHILE") THESE ELEMENTS, HOWEVER, WERE LARGELY OVERWHELMED BY ANTI-BRAZIL THEME.

5.COMMENT: DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZERS FAILED TO BLOCK BRAZIL-EXPORT THEY SUCEEDED IN AROUSING SOME PUBLIC ATTENTION TO POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN BRAZIL AND MAKING BELGIAN POLITICANS SHY ABOUT ENDORSING FAIR. PROMINENT BELGIAN BUSINESS FIGURES TURNED OUT IN FORCE FOR FAIR'S OPENING BUT HIGHEST GOVERNMENTAL OFFICAL IN ATTENDENANCE WAS STATE SECRETARY FOR TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH WHO ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN TRADE. PRESS REPORTS, NEVERTHELESS, SAID THAT BRAZIL EXPORT ORGANIZERS RECEIVED MORE ORDERS FOR GOODS THAN THEY HAD HOPED FOR.SRRAUSZ-HUPE

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